

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1A

FLB  
583

COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 15 SEP 50

SUBJECT Censorship of Mail

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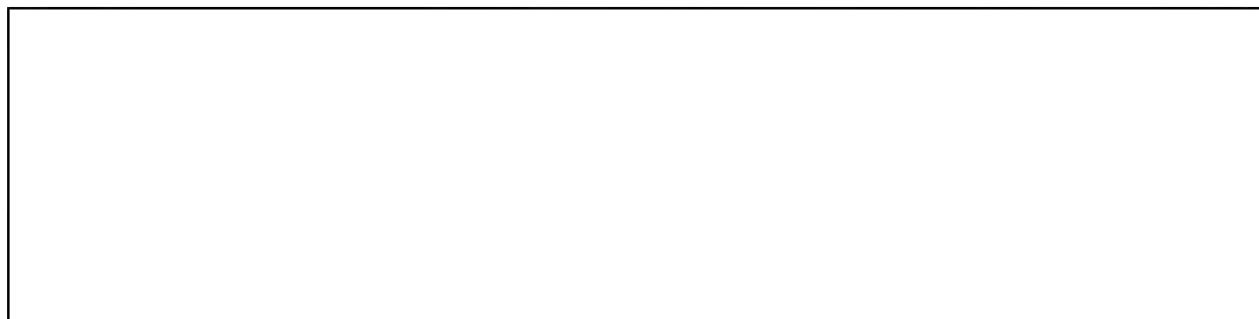
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1. According to post-war statutes, all censorship of mail in Poland was abolished as of 31 December 1946 and has not officially been reimposed since that time. In actual practice, however, censorship was never completely abolished but was instead modified to include mail only of persons who were suspected of harboring opposing political ideas. Thus the average person in Poland believes that mail censorship no longer exists.
2. Censorship of the domestic mails in Poland:
  - a. At present there is no general censorship of mail that is circulated inside the country.
  - b. There is no regulation requiring the addresser to write his address on mail sent to a domestic or foreign address.
  - c. Only the mail of persons who have been placed on a suspect list by the UB or other authority is censored. A rigid censorship of such persons is maintained in order to learn the identities of their contacts and as a means of gathering evidence to be used at the trials of such individuals. Many persons have been arrested and convicted in this way.
3. Censorship of mail sent or received from abroad:
  - a. There is no general censorship of mail sent or received from abroad, but it is believed that mail concerning Poles living abroad is subject to censorship. A list of such Poles is in existence and is in the possession of the censorship office. The names on all mail of foreign destination or origin are supposed to be checked against this list, but this is not always done. Apparently, in most instances, only mail bearing names which have security significance are checked.
  - b. The greatest hindrance to effective censorship is the clever and frequent use of cover names and addresses. The enormous task of checking names against addresses is not being done at this time.
4. Censorship is conducted by officers of the UB and under the direction of Soviet offices. Censorship headquarters are located in Warsaw.

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5. Air mail letters destined for points other than iron curtain countries are sent to the central censorship offices in Warsaw and Gdansk. In many instances letters posted for surface transportation from Szczecin to Sweden reached their destinations sooner than those sent by air mail because of the delay resulting from censorship.

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